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विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय

(विधायी विभाग)

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 1 मार्च, 2024

का.आ. 995(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 (1951 का 43) की धारा 169 के साथ पठित धारा 60 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, भारत निर्वाचन आयोग से परामर्श करने के पश्चात्, निर्वाचनों का संचालन नियम, 1961 का और संशोधन करने के लिए निम्नलिखित नियम बनाती है, अर्थात्:—

- (1) इन नियमों का संक्षिप्त नाम निर्वाचनों का संचालन (संशोधन) नियम, 2024 है।
(2) ये राजपत्र में उनके प्रकाशन की तारीख को प्रवृत्त होंगे।
- निर्वाचनों का संचालन नियम, 1961 के नियम 27क के खंड (ड) में, “80 वर्ष से अधिक”, अंकों और शब्दों के स्थान पर, “85 वर्ष से अधिक”, अंक और शब्द रखे जाएंगे।

[फा. सं. एच-11019/3/2024-वि.2]

सुधा रानी रेलंगी, संयुक्त सचिव और विधायी परामर्शी

टिप्पण : मूल नियम, भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण में अधिसूचना संख्यांक का.आ. 859(अ), तारीख 15 अक्टूबर, 1961 द्वारा प्रकाशित किए गए थे और अधिसूचना संख्यांक का.आ. 3778(अ), तारीख 23 अगस्त, 2023 द्वारा अंतिम बार संशोधित किए गए थे।

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(Legislative Department)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 1st March, 2024

S.O. 995(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 60 read with section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951), the Central Government, after consulting the Election Commission of India, hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, namely:—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2024.
(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. In the conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, in rule 27A, in clause (e), for the words and figures “above 80 years”, the words and figures “above 85 years” shall be substituted.

[F. No. H-11019/3/2024-Leg.-II]

SUDHA RANI RELANGI, Jt. Secy. and Legislative Counsel

Note : The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary *vide* notification number S.O.859(E), dated the 15th April, 1961 and were last amended *vide* notification number S.O. 3778(E), dated the 23rd August, 2023.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.52/2024/SDR/Vol.II

Dated: 16th March, 2024

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the provisions of clause (c) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission hereby specifies that the elector above the age of 85 years and elector with physical disability (benchmark) as already marked/flagged in the data base of the electoral rolls of the State and, who requests for voting by postal ballot paper and subject to the verification of his request by Returning Officer concerned, would be a class of persons to give his vote by postal ballot in the current General Elections to the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024 and bye elections to 26 Assembly Constituencies in 13 States (as per Annexure-II) to be notified under Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as per the provisions in Part-III A of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, as amended vide Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India, Notifications SO No. 3786(E), dated 22nd October, 2019, SO No.3778(E), dated 23rd August, 2023 and SO No. 995(E), dated 1st March, 2024.

By Order,



(S.B.JOSHI)
Principal Secretary

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग

निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001

सं. 52/2024/एसडीआर/खंड-॥

दिनांक: 16 मार्च, 2024

अधिसूचना

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 60 के खंड(ग) के उपबंधों के अनुसरण में निर्वाचन आयोग एतद्द्वारा विनिर्दिष्ट करता है कि 85 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के निर्वाचक और शारीरिक निःशक्तता (बैंचमार्क) वाले निर्वाचक, जिन्हें राज्य की निर्वाचक नामावलियों के डाटा बेस में पहले से ही चिह्नित/इंगित किया गया हो, और जो डाक मतपत्र द्वारा मतदान करने के लिए आवेदन करते हैं और जो संबंधित रिटर्निंग अधिकारी द्वारा उसके अनुरोध के सत्यापन की शर्त के अधीन हैं, निर्वाचनों का संचालन नियम, 1961 के भाग-॥।क, विधि एवं न्याय मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की अधिसूचना का. आ. सं. 3786 (अ.) दिनांक 22 अक्टूबर, 2019, का. आ. सं. 3778 (अ.) दिनांक 23 अगस्त, 2023 एवं का. आ. सं. 995 (अ.) दिनांक 1 मार्च, 2024 के जरिए यथा-संशोधित और इस विषय पर निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा निर्गत निर्देशों एवं दिशानिर्देशों के साथ पठित, लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 की धारा 30 के अंतर्गत दिनांक 20.03.2024, 28.03.2024, 12.04.2024, 18.04.2024, 26.04.2024, 29.04.2024 और 07.05.2024 को अधिसूचित होने वाले वर्तमान लोक सभा तथा आन्ध्र प्रदेश, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, ओडिशा और सिक्किम की विधान सभाओं के साधारण निर्वाचनों, 2024 तथा 13 राज्यों में 26 विधान सभाओं के उप निर्वाचनों (अनुलग्नक के अनुसार) डाक मतपत्र द्वारा मतदान करने के लिए व्यक्तियों की एक श्रेणी होंगी।

आदेश से,

(एस.बी. जोशी)
प्रधान सचिव

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.52/2024/SDR/Vol.II

Dated: 16th March, 2024

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the provisions of clause (c) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission hereby specifies that the Covid-19 suspect or affected person, certified by competent authority, who applies for voting by postal ballot paper, and subject to verification of his request by the Returning Officer concerned, would be a class of persons to give his vote by postal ballot in the current General Elections to the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024 and bye-elections to 26 Assembly Constituencies in 13 States (as per Annexure-II) scheduled to be notified on 20.03.2024, 28.03.2024, 12.04.2024, 18.04.2024, 26.04.2024, 29.04.2024 and 07.05.2024 under Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as per the provisions in Part-IIIA of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, as amended vide Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India, Notification SO No. 1964(E), dated 19th June, 2020 read with the directions and guidelines issued by the Election Commission on the subject.

By Order,



(S.B.JOSHI)
Principal Secretary

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.52/2024/SDR/Vol.II

Dated: 16th March, 2024

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the provisions of clause (c) of Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission hereby specifies that the elector above the age of 85 years and elector with physical disability (benchmark) as already marked/flagged in the data base of the electoral rolls of the State and, who requests for voting by postal ballot paper and subject to the verification of his request by Returning Officer concerned, would be a class of persons to give his vote by postal ballot in the current General Elections to the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024 and bye elections to 26 Assembly Constituencies in 13 States (as per Annexure-II) to be notified under Section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as per the provisions in Part-III A of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, as amended vide Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India, Notifications SO No. 3786(E), dated 22nd October, 2019, SO No.3778(E), dated 23rd August, 2023 and SO No. 995(E), dated 1st March, 2024.

By Order,



(S.B.JOSHI)
Principal Secretary

RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY 2024

FOR

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP

Foreword

Lakshadweep, with its unique geography as an archipelago, faces energy challenges that necessitate a sustainable and resilient approach. Recognizing the potential of renewable energy sources, this policy aims to outline a comprehensive framework for the development, integration, and promotion of renewable energy in Lakshadweep. Lakshadweep Administration would like to thank the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Power, Govt. of India for setting up targets and providing guidelines for promotion of renewable energy.

Major power requirement of the Union territory is met from the Diesel Power Plants. Lakshadweep Electricity Department (LED) and Lakshadweep Energy Development Agency (LEDA) are fully committed to undertake all measures for infrastructural upgradation and measures for efficiency improvements at the Generation, transmission and distribution networks respectively. Lakshadweep Administration is committed to establish Electricity generation from Renewable Energy (RE) Sources and thereby reducing dependency on costly and non-environmental friendly HSD oil based Power generation. Department envisages to meet the entire power demand from RE sources thus bringing down the fossil fuel usage to 0% and Keep Diesel Power Plant as standby option.

1. Preamble

Energy is fundamental to the quality of our lives. Presently, we are dependent on an abundant and uninterrupted supply of energy for living and working. Depletion of conventional energy resources (Coal, Oil, Natural gas etc.) day by day and emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in environment from usage of fossil fuel is complex problem in reduction of global warming.

The U.T. of Lakshadweep is generating its own power through Diesel power plants. Promotion of renewable energy resources and technology plays an important role to meet the upcoming energy requirement through secure, systematic and environmentally sustainable manner so that dependency on fossil fuels will be reduced in future. Lakshadweep is also blessed with high solar radiation with an average of 300 days of clear sun. The U.T. Administration fosters and promotes Renewable Energy (RE) initiatives for the social and economic development of Lakshadweep.

In view of ambitious targets set by Central Government for solar power generation and in light of Vision-2047, there is a need for a comprehensive policy to promote the RE technologies. Hence, the Government is pleased to introduce the **Renewable Energy Policy – 2024 for the U.T. of Lakshadweep** to build a sustainable and resilient energy future for the islands.

2. Legal and Regulatory Framework

2.1 Electricity Act 2003

According to the Electricity Act 2003, Section-9 (2) as amended from time to time, any private individual or Agency is free to set up a Power Generation Plant and they shall have right to open access of the transmission and distribution facility.

2.2 Nationally Determined Contribution

India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is now its first NDC under the Paris Agreement. NDC sets target to achieve about 50 percent cumulative

electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. Accordingly, national target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 is set.

2.3 Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the State of Goa and U.T.

In the matter of electricity, regulatory body for U.T. of Lakshadweep is Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for the state of Goa and Union Territory. The orders/Regulations passed by the commission from time to time shall be applicable to the provisions of this policy. Similarly, Acts passed by Government of India in respect of Power Sector shall also be applicable to provisions of this Policy. In case of any discrepancy between the provisions of this Policy and Orders/Regulations issued by the JERC, the orders/Regulations issued by the JERC will take precedence.

Overall development and operation of solar power generating stations shall abide by standards and regulations of Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) or other competent authority.

3. Objectives

Walking hand in hand with the Government of India (GoI), the RE Policy is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Promotion of RE Generation within U.T.
- Encouraging private sector participation by defining roadmap and providing facilitation.
- To create skilled manpower and employment opportunity for U.T.
- To encourage Decentralized Distribution, Generation system within the U.T. for reducing T&D losses
- To encourage development of renewable energy related industries within U.T.

4. Title, Enforcement and Scope

- 4.1 This Policy shall be known as "**Renewable Energy Policy – 2024 for the U.T. of Lakshadweep**". Policy shall be applicable from the date of notification of the policy in the Official Gazette. Lakshadweep Electricity Department shall be the nodal agency for designing, implementing and maintaining the policy and shall execute various responsibilities as per this policy.

4.2 The Policy shall be extended for various types of non-fossil fuel resources including but not limited to Solar PV rooftop / Ground mounted / Floating generators, Wind Turbine Generator, wave energy, tidal energy, Green Hydrogen / Ammonia production, RE based Energy Storage technologies etc.

4.3 Primary focus of the policy for setting up Solar Power Generation facility within U.T. of Lakshadweep.

5. Operative Period

5.1 This policy shall come into operation with effect from the date of publication in the gazette and shall remain valid, until superseded or modified by another policy. Solar power plants, approved, installed and commissioned during this period shall be eligible for the incentive declared in this policy.

6. Eligible Entities

6.1 For the development of solar power projects under this policy- any individual person, proprietorship company, partnership company, all registered companies, public/private sector solar power project developers, EPC contractors and manufacturing units of equipments and ancillaries related to solar projects will be eligible for setting up RE Power projects, either for the purpose of captive use and/or selling of electricity in accordance with the Electricity Act-2003, Section-9, as amended from time to time. However, the applicant needs to be consumer of U.T. LED, and shall be referred as prosumer (Producer + Consumer).

For grid connected solar projects, only MNRE approved technology shall be considered.

7. Empanelment of EPC Contractor

7.1 All projects under the policy shall be executed by EPC contractor empanelled with Lakshadweep Electricity Department. This is to ensure better quality of work and

trouble free execution as well as hassle free post execution activities between Prosumer and EPC contractor.

7.2 All EPC contractors who execute the project need to deposit Performance Guarantee of 5% of the contract value for the period of 5 years. The Performance Guarantee shall be refunded to the contractor, provided his performance is found satisfactory.

Nodal agency and its role

8.1 Lakshadweep Electricity Department shall be nodal agency for implementation of Solar Policy.

Responsibilities of the nodal agency shall include but not limited to:

- Providing online platform for application processing and publishing various information such as capacity available to distribution transformer for connecting solar power projects connectivity, performance of power plants under the policy etc.
- Promotion of Research and Development activities (R&D) and Environment friendly technologies.
- Arranging awareness campaign on energy conservation and use of renewable sources of energy at all levels.
- Recommendation of projects to avail benefits under the policy declared or to be declared by the Government of India.
- Facilitation of allotment of suitable land/space in the control of government or its agencies.
- Financial arrangement through budget support, creation of green fund or through private investment.
- The nodal agency shall carryout feasibility survey of government buildings, lands, Sea beds, waste land, etc. for installation of solar PV projects within 6 months of the notification of the policy and publish the same online.

8.2 Nodal Agency will act as single window clearance for Solar Power Projects for the following activities:

- Ensuring all the incentives available to the prosumer under relevant U.T.'s policy that are applicable to the solar power producers.

- Ensuring that all relevant Government orders pertaining to this policy are issued in a time bound manner by concerned departments.
- Facilitation in all clearances, approvals, permissions and consents required from the State Government/LED / Other agencies.
- Ensuring timely provision of evacuation infrastructure for the upcoming solar power plants.

9. Application Procedure and Single Window Clearances

9.1 Lakshadweep Electricity Department shall prepare detailed operating procedure and related formats for implementation of this policy. The applicant may visit department website <https://powerlak.gov.in/> or National Portal for Rooftop <https://solarrooftop.gov.in/> for submission of application, feasibility approval and commissioning approval. Facility for document uploads shall be available online. In case of approval of multiple agencies is required, the same shall be available online.

9.2 For benefit of applicant, Electricity Department shall prepare documents like guidelines, formats, list of documents etc. and shall make available online. For wide publicity of online facility, Electricity Department may also organize awareness programs, advertisement, banners etc.

9.3 Electricity Department shall scrutinize the application, assess feasibility and issue consent letter within 7 days of receipt of application and the same shall be communicated to applicant through registered mail id. In case of any lacuna or inadequate information, the concerned applicant shall be informed.

9.4 After receipt of feasibility approval, the plant shall be installed by any registered EPC contractor. After installation of plant, the vendor shall provide plant details and request for grid connectivity. All such communication shall be facilitated through online portal.

9.5 All the grid connected power generation plant setup under this policy shall enter into PPA with Nodal Agency for sale of power for the period as mentioned in the Policy. Nodal Agency shall prepare draft PPA and publish online.

9.6 Lakshadweep Electricity Department may device a step-wise detailed procedure for hassle free process of application and grid connectivity.

10. Grid Connectivity

10.1 Only grid connected Solar PV projects are qualified to setup power plant under this policy. Minimum size of the plant shall be 0.5 KW per grid connectivity. The cap on size of the plant will be decided by the LED.

10.2 The prosumer shall comply with IEGC, JERC Regulations, CEA Regulations for implementation of solar projects or any such regulations notified by MNRE or other competent authority from to time.

(a) Net metering: Net metering means a mechanism whereby solar energy exported to the Grid from Grid Interactive rooftop Solar Photovoltaic system of a Prosumer is deducted from energy imported from the Grid in units (kWh) to arrive at the net imported or exported energy and the net energy import or export is billed or credited or carried-over by the distribution licensee on the basis of the applicable retail tariff by using a single bidirectional energy meter for net-metering at the point of supply;

Net metering shall be allowed to the Prosumer for loads up to five hundred Kilowatt (500 KW) or upto the sanctioned load, whichever is lower.

(b) Gross Metering:

Gross metering means a mechanism whereby the total solar energy generated from Grid Interactive rooftop Solar Photovoltaic system of a Prosumer and the total energy consumed by the Prosumer are accounted separately through appropriate metering arrangements and for the billing purpose, the total energy consumed by the Prosumer is accounted at the applicable retail tariff and total solar power generated is accounted at applicable tariff.

The Commission shall decide for this purpose the generic tariff for gross-metering as per tariff regulations. Till such tariff is notified by the Commission, average power

purchase cost as approved by Commission shall be considered as rates for sale of power by prosumer to LED.

- (c) Virtual Net Metering: It is an arrangement whereby entire energy generated from RE generator / Energy Storage System is exported to the grid is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of multiple prosumers located within same LED.
- (d) Group Net Metering has an arrangement whereby surplus energy from RE generator / Energy Storage System is exported to the grid is adjusted in more than one electricity service connection(s) of the same prosumer located within same LED.

11. Metering and Billing

11.1 Lakshadweep Electricity Department (LED) shall be responsible for supply, installation and maintenance of meters to RE generating projects. LED shall install bidirectional meter having facility to record separately import and export measurements. LED shall be responsible for sealing, meter reading and billing. LED shall, clearly show energy generated from RE and energy exported to the grid on Energy Bill of consumers.

11.2 All project connected at 11 KV shall be monitored by LED

- a. LED shall allow installation of Solar Power Projects in its area of supply on nondiscriminatory and first come - first serve basis. In the interest of average cost of electricity purchase that impacts the Consumer tariffs, the proposals with subsidy (Central + U.T.) will be given higher preference.
- b. For settlement of power generation from net-metering plants, at the end of each billing cycle, LED shall take readings of solar generation meter and readings of imported and exported energy as recorded by the bidirectional meter. The Prosumer will be presented a bill for the difference between imported and exported energy (the net-imported energy). If during a billing cycle exported energy exceeds imported energy, the exported surplus units will be paid annually (Financial year) to the consumer at the applicable tariff rate as per JERC tariff order. At the end of the Financial Year, LED shall prepare final settlement statement. In case of net export energy at the end of the settlement period, LED

shall settle the export energy by crediting consumer at the applicable tariff rate as per JERC tariff order.

- c. Excess energy exported to the grid (measured in kWh) can only be utilized to offset the electricity consumption (measured in kWh) and not for adjustment of any other fees or charges levied by LED.
- d. Rules, regulations and terms of service applicable to Consumers of the LED for the applicable class or category of service connection including but not limited to the consumption tariff, payment terms, contracted load or demand, load surcharge, peak load restrictions and security deposit, shall also be applicable to an electrical service connection with a Prosumer Solar Power project.
- e. A Prosumer or a producer of Solar Power shall be exempted from charges in respect of electricity banking, wheeling, line losses and cross subsidy to the extent of Energy produced.
- f. In case of any contingency / emergency / unavoidable circumstances, LED shall have rights to select the prosumer to disconnect installation from the grid and disallow any injection.

12. Target of Policy

- 12.1 U.T. Administration of Lakshadweep sets ambitious target to achieve 72 MW solar power generation and fulfilling the Vision 2047. Application shall be accepted round the year till fulfillment of the target capacity. The applications shall be accepted in first cum first served basis.
- 12.2 All government buildings shall be covered with rooftop solar power plants within 12 months from the notification of the policy. Nodal agency shall carryout survey of potential within 6 month from notification of this policy.
- 12.3 All residential buildings shall be encouraged to install rooftop solar power plants within 12 months from the notification of the policy. Nodal agency shall carryout

survey of potential upon receiving the applications from the interested applicants through national portal for solar roof top.

13. Commercial Settlement

13.1 Commercial Date of Operation (COD) for the plant shall be notified by LED for each project after due approval / inspection of the plant.

13.2 The power exported to the grid by all plants implemented under this policy shall be purchased by LED for the period of 25 years from the date of scheduled delivery date or COD whichever is later.

14. Sale of Energy

14.1 Energy generated from solar power projects that are commissioned during this policy period may be sold to LED. All plants set under this policy will have to get registered and complete necessary formalities with the nodal agency.

15. Incentives

A) Open Access charges

If open access is granted to developer/beneficiary, they shall be exempted from open access restriction and associated charges.

B) Capital Financial Assistance

15.1 U.T. Administration of Lakshadweep through Electricity Department shall provide subsidy to registered domestic consumers for installation of solar PV projects. The subsidy will be in addition to the MNRE subsidy. The amount of subsidy shall be decided from time to time by the UT Administration of Lakshadweep.

15.2 Capital Financial Assistance shall be available, provided that, the plant shall be located within U.T. only. Further, no incentive shall be provided to the plant having capacity of more than 10 KW at single location.

15.3 After commissioning of solar PV plant, the applicant can avail Capital subsidy by uploading required documents in National Portal.

15.4 Subsidy from UT Administration shall be released after three months of generation from the plant.

15.5 Computation will be decided by U.T. Administration of Lakshadweep from time to time.

C) Solar Power Evacuation

LED shall facilitate evacuation of solar power in following manner,

- LT: from metering point onwards (through net-metering)

16. Taxes and Duties

The tariff determined under JERC Regulation regarding solar energy (amended from time to time) shall be exclusive of taxes and duties as may be levied by the appropriate Government for sale of Solar Power, provided that the taxes and duties levied by the appropriate Government shall be allowed as pass through on actual basis.

17. Amendment to Policy

The policy shall abide by applicable JERC Regulations as amended from time to time. Lakshadweep Electricity Department shall amend or issue corrigendum or redeclare policy as and when required. No notwithstanding anything directly or indirectly mentioned in the policy, all modifications / amendments / shall be approved by Hon'ble Administrator of Lakshadweep.

This is issued with the approval of the Hon'ble Administrator, UT of Lakshadweep vide Diary No. 440 Dated 05/03/2024.



(Vikranth Raja A, IAS)
Secretary (Power)
UT of Lakshadweep Administration